THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 27. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

The Women's Hall, MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY

8 p.m.

Speakers Sept. 20th

Mrs. DRAKE, Mrs. BOUVIER

Mrs. THERESA GOUGH.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Sept. 19th., 3 p.m.—321 Roman Rd—Poster parade.

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Schlette and others.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Mrs. T. Gough.

Monday, Sept. 21st, 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Miss Somers.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Mrs. Walker.

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, 2.30 p.m.—31 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. Schlette.
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. Bouvier.

Wednesday, Sept. 23rd, 8 p.m.—Poplar Office—Mrs. Drake, Miss A. M. Lynch.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—

Thursday, Sept. 24th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar Office—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Knapp Road.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. Parsons, Miss Lynch.

Friday, Sept. 25th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.

The Women's Hall, PUBLIC MEETING

Every MONDAY AFTERNOON

At 3 o'clock.

OUR PAPER.

West London friends who are willing to sell the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, or to collect for the E.L.F.S. relief funds, should call on Miss Z. P. Emerson at flat A, 21 Coram Street, W. C., between three and six on Wednesday afternoons.

East London friends should come to the Woman's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow, 321 Roman Road, Bow, 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar, at any time, to Crowder Hall, Bow Road, between three and six p.m., or the local secretaries addresses by appointment. —*see District Reports back page.*

All subscriptions to the E.L.F.S. relief and general funds, should be posted to the Hon. Treasurer, at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS.

The Board of Trade profess to be very much alive to the need for securing better conditions for the women employed by Government contractors. They also pretend to be doing their best to prevent Government contractors working overtime whilst so large a proportion of workpeople have no work to do. Nevertheless, the E.L.F.S. has notified many instances of overtime and under pay without result.

Compton's Army Clothing Factory in Ford Road, Bow, E., still works till 8 p.m. and on Sundays.

At Keiller's we are told that women are working from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Women working from 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., earn 11s. a week. They are paid 2½d. an hour overtime—a miserable sum. If they work an odd quarter of an hour overtime they receive no extra for it, and they get no pay for the fifteen or twenty minutes that is often cribbed from their dinner hour.

Women at Maconochie's are also working overtime. Their regular wages are 8s. a week. They have to stand in water at their work. Other firms who engage women for this sort of work supply clogs. We are told Maconochie's do not.

Men and women employed at Woolwich Arsenal are working on Sundays.

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Our women who can work, care more for work than charitable doles of food, and what we want most of all is money to set them to work to make clothes to give away to those destitute mothers who are unable or have too many children to be able to do anything beyond the unpaid labour of caring for their homes and children.

Who will pay 5/6 to make a serge dress and knickers to match for a little girl of five, and 1/11 for an overall?

Who will pay 2/- for a baby's cotton nightgown?

Who will pay 2/6 for a baby's flannel barra coat?

OUR BABY CLINIC.

Our 'COST PRICE' RESTAURANTS

The customers to our restaurants are still on the increase. We urgently need gifts of soup plates, dishes, cups, jugs, knives and forks, spoons, glasses, pans, boilers, gas rings and other utensils; also fruit, vegetables and groceries.

OUR BABIES' MILK CENTRES.

About a hundred nursing and expectant mothers are now receiving dinners and a quart of milk a day at the Women's Hall, Bow. The number of babies and invalids to whom milk is given is growing rapidly, in spite of the fact that we help only the more urgent cases. The milk centres at 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar and Crowder Hall for Bromley have also a growing number of cases. We urgently need gifts of milk, eggs, arrowroot, barley, or money to buy these.

We wish to be able to lend necessitous mothers the necessary outfits for their babies, for the first months, and to give them the first set of short baby clothes.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester says that "in distributing the pay of men on service to their dependents, the War Office failed at the outset to realise its duty." He urges that the payments should be made weekly and through the Post Office like Old Age Pensions—A practical suggestion.

NOTICE TO QUIT.

Two young women, wives of soldiers serving at the front, complained to the Marylebone magistrate that their landlords had threatened to eject them, because they were unable to pay the rent.

"Take my advice," replied the magistrate, "and lock your doors up tightly, so that no one can get in. Meanwhile an officer of the court shall tell the landlord that if he tries to eject you summarily he is doing a very dangerous thing. The law is very uncertain, but he is doing a very dangerous thing."

For the present both the magistrates at Marylebone are refusing to make any orders of ejectment under the Small Tenements Recovery Act.

Unfortunately, the magistrates at Old Street Police Court (and perhaps others) are displaying a less kindly spirit. Several ejectment orders have been made by them recently. It is probable that the person concerned will not dare to execute these orders, but many of the poor people, who are absolutely unable to pay their rent are nevertheless placed in terror. Landlords are serving blue papers on their tenants, ordering them to quit, and quoting newspaper accounts of cases in which families have been turned into the street. One woman we know who has a baby seven days old, was weeping bitterly when we called upon her, because she had received one of these notices.

We are assured by people in high places that during the War no one will be turned out. Mr. Lloyd George has said that the landlords will not be hard on their tenants. But what the people need is a definite statement from the Government that they will be safe from eviction until the war is over. Arrangements have been made by the Government to safeguard the interests of big business firms—let them do as much for the families of the working classes.

OUR DINNER PARTY.

The E.L.F.S. Dinner Party on Saturday evening, September 26th, at 8 p.m., will be held in the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow. Tickets 3d.

There is to be an entertainment by members and friends. All those willing to help in this way should send in their names to Miss Smyth at 400 Old Ford Road.

It is a public duty to register for work or relief under the Prince of Wales' Fund. Do so at once! In the Borough of Poplar you must register at the Free Library. In other districts, either at the Library or the Town Hall. Do it to help yourselves and others!

NEWCASTLE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES.

The *Daily Herald* reports that in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the wives of soldiers and sailors have been given grocery coupons only, to supplement the separation allowances, most of which they are obliged to pay away in rent. The coupons can only be changed for goods named on a fixed price list as follows:—

The prices fixed by this autocratic body are as follows:—Tea, per lb. 1s. 6d.; coffee (with chicory), per lb. 1s. 4d.; cocoa (loose), per lb. 1s.; sugar (granulated), per lb. 3½d.; condensed milk (full cream), per large tin, 7½d.; (skimmed), per large tin, 4d.; flour, per stone, 1s. 8d.; oatmeal (Scotch), per stone, 2s. 6d.; yeast, per lb. 8d.; salt, per packet, ½d. and 1d.; jam, per 2lb. jar, 8d. to 9d.; golden syrup, per 2lb. tin, 6d.; butter, per lb. 1s. 3d.; margarine, per lb. 8d.; lard, per lb. 8d.; cheese (Dutch), per lb. 7d.; ditto (Colonial), per lb. 9d.; peas (split), per lb. 2d.; ditto (green), per lb. 3d.; beans (small), per lb. 2d.; lentils, per lb. 3d.; rice, per lb. 2d.; sago, per lb. 3d.; tapioca, per lb. 3d.; barley, per lb. 2½d.; potatoes, per stone, 6d.

Many women consider 1s. 6d. too high a price to pay for tea, and dislike chicory in their coffee. There is no bacon on the list, no eggs, no suet, no meat or fresh milk, no raisins, currants or fruit, no green vegetables, carrots, onions, vegetable marrows, etc.—to say nothing of boots, shoes and clothes.

One woman with a baby five months old, is allowed 7s. worth of groceries for herself and 1s. 6d. worth for the baby. Another woman 7s. worth for herself and 3s. worth for her children.

Evidently there are no women accustomed to shopping on the Newcastle-on-Tyne Local Representation Committee! But what a scandal it is that the wives of soldiers and sailors should be reduced to these miserable doles! Many of their husbands were artisans who were earning perhaps 30s. to 35s. or more before the war.

HOSPITALS WANTED.

A woman who has six children, whose ages range from six months to 10 years and whose husband, owing to the war, is on short time and only earning 15s. a week, has one little girl 2½ years who has ulcers on her eyes. The child is carried to the hospital as an out-patient once a week, and Dr. Lilian Simpson, who attends our babies at the Women's Hall, tells us that this is a very bad case that imperatively needs hospital treatment. The hospital has no room for this poor little child.

At the best of times the hospitals, beside being unable to cope with the numbers needing treatment, are very far away from the homes of many out-patients, and the fees that are charged make it impossible for many mothers to take their children.

Bow needs a municipal free hospital very badly. Let those who live there demand that the Borough Council shall erect one forthwith, and let the other districts follow suit.

MEDICAL WOMEN WANTED.

When women first qualified as medical practitioners, there was strong prejudice against them, and but few public posts were open to them. Now there is a great scarcity of medical women. In five years time there will be an absolute dearth, for the demand for them is growing every day. There is a tendency to ask medical women to do gratuitously, work for which a fee is always paid in the case of men; but in spite of this the numbers of paid posts for medical women are increasing much more rapidly than the number of women who qualify. A medical training is long and expensive. Many fathers prefer to expend money on the training of their sons than on that of their daughters. One of the needs of the moment is for an increase in the number of scholarships in medicine for women. State scholarships should be provided, and any wealthy women who wish to give money towards education, could find no better means of doing so than this.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

The Mayor still refrains from calling a meeting of the Bow, Bromley and Poplar Local Representative Committee appointed to administer the Prince of Wales' fund. They say there is not yet enough distress!

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

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No. 27.—Saturday, Sept. 19th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

INACTION AND DISTRESS.

The price of bread has gone up again to 6d. a quartern loaf, sugar, which used to cost 1½d. and 2½d. is 3½d. and 4½d., the prices of meat and other staples have advanced too.

These things mean sheer disaster in numberless homes where the mothers can only manage to keep things going by dint of perpetual economy and striving at the best of times.

Financial distress, a shortage of food, a shortage of clothes and shoes, the impossibility of paying the high rent that was always so heavy a drain on the mother's purse, these things are facing the people in the poor little dingy houses of all these crowded streets.

Added to high prices, unemployment and short time are growing. The husband has lost his work, or is on short time, or a son or a daughter's earnings are reduced, or have ceased altogether, or the mother herself has lost the little extra sewing, or washing or charing that she used to do.

The homes are growing barer—they pawn and sell almost everything before they will go to Poor Law Guardians' or Relief Committees, for old experience has taught them that national and private relief agencies are alike slow to act, and prone to refuse help to those whose larders are not emptied of every crumb, and whose homes are not stripped of every comfort.

On behalf of the Bow West Ward Sub-committee of the Local Representative Committee, on which I sit, I called on a man who had been in the army for years, and had an excellent character. He showed me all his papers. He was in a little bare room about five feet square. He had sold the blankets and sheets from his bed and he had no food. He is a widower. His son, who used to live with him, and who earned 11s. a week is at the war. The old man used to do odd jobs and hawk lime juice, but both these sources of income have failed owing to the War. He is now getting 5s. a week on account of his son from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Fund. His rent is 2s. a week. He cannot live on the change.

But that is a simple case compared to some others. Mrs. K. has a little baby under two years old, and is expecting another any moment. Her son is at the war. She had a sum of money from the War Office, which worked out at 6s. 11d. a week for the time it was supposed to last. After that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association promised her 4s. 6d. a week till the next instalment was due at the end of September. Her rent, which she has to pay because her landlady is as poor as herself, is 4s. per week. We communicated with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association about her. They promised to give her 12s. 6d., but her next week's instalment was again 4s. 6d. She came to us all pale-faced and worried, carrying her first baby in her arms, and all weighed down by the second, who is coming so soon, and for whom, as yet, she has been unable to prepare.

A man, who enlisted two weeks ago, left a wife and five little children, whose ages range from two to eleven years. Two of the children are ill. He left the home without a penny. At the end of the week the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association gave the wife 5s., and promised her 5s. next Friday. The rent is 6s. 6d. and she had to pay 6d. for one of the children's birth certificates. The youngest child is too young for school dinners. The child of five is not allowed them because she is too delicate to digest them.

They say that the troubles of Soldiers' and Sailors' wives will be righted soon, but meanwhile the people pinch and starve, and for every expectant mother who goes short of food some man or woman of the future is losing the chance of strong and healthful life.

I called at a house, for the Local Ward Committee, where the father had worked 23 years for one firm, but had an accident in doing his work. He had been ill many weeks, and when he went back to work he was told he was not wanted any more. The Charity Organisation Society sent him to a "Poor Man's Lawyer" five weeks ago, but he has not got compensation yet. His wife has been a brush maker since she left school, and has worked four years for a firm that has now shut down owing to the war. There are two little girls of school age and a little boy of 14, who has got work at a gun factory at 7s. a week. It is on his wage that the family subsist. They pay 3s. 6d. rent for one room in which they live, and which contains only a bedstead with hardly any bedding, a small table and a broken sofa. The woman, who gave me the two most pathetic letters from her husband, which appear on column 1, next page, told me that her husband and a friend met a man in the street, who read to them a letter "from the Government," asking this man to get men to work on Salisbury Plains at putting up tents. Each man was to pay his own railway fare, which was 10s. The men were so anxious for the work that, to pay her husband's fare, the woman got her sister to pawn a ring. Her husband's friend managed to borrow the money for his fare from the Bow County Court.

As will be seen from the letters, the men on Salisbury Plain have not been able to send anything home. The writer of the letter had been employed in the building trade, and was therefore entitled to unemployment benefit. If he called at the Labour Exchange on Saturday, he would be given the 4s. 6d. that was due to him. He was on Salisbury Plain. The wife called in his stead, but the money could not be paid to her. It is lost to the family, for she is told that no arrears of unemployment benefit are paid. There are three little children, whose ages range from three to twelve years. The rent is 8s. 6d., it has fallen into arrears. A lodger pays 2s. 3d. That money and 1s. 6d. that the mother earned by washing, was what the family lived on last week.

Even worse is the plight of a farrier and family, who came to us a week ago. He had lost his work when war started owing to the Government taking away the horses. He has nine children, four of whom are too young to get school dinners, and he was out of work several weeks before even the older ones obtained them. The youngest child is three months old—no money is coming in and almost everything in the home has been pawned to buy food.

The wife of a dock labourer out of work has a baby seven days old, and five other little ones, only two of whom get dinners at school. The rent of the two rooms is 4s. It is six weeks in arrears, and the poor woman is weeping because she has notice to quit.

Do not imagine that these are specially hard cases. There are hundreds and hundreds of others to match them, and meanwhile Local Representative Committees and their Ward Sub-committees meet, or cease to meet, it is all the same either way, for they have no money. Some of the people in distress get scanty doles from Poor Law Guardians and charitable organisations; many go without. The people in distress must walk long distances to Labour Exchanges in one direction, to Distress Committees in another, to Local Representative Committees' registration depots in another—and come away empty from them all. If the wife has registered the case, *that* is useless, the husband must go himself. "When people are out of work, why should they mind tramping about to search for it?" is asked, but those who have been on short commons know that when one is hungry one grows tired and faint, and a drowsy hopelessness weighs down one's thoughts and clogs one's weary feet.

And all this time pæans of praise to the Government and all its many schemes and committees are being sung, pæans of praise for the wonderful organisation which has been formed for the relief of unemployment and distress, and for the care of the families whose dearly loved bread winners are fighting at the front.

Mr. Balfour states that there has been no "bottling" of the Prince of Wales' Fund, and that £350,000 of it has been distributed. He repudiates the suggestion that the Fund is to be used only for the dependents of soldiers' and sailors', and says:—"For my own part it is the women thrown out of employment by the war who seem to have the strongest claims upon our sympathy and aid, and so, I believe, think my colleagues on the Executive Committee."

£350,000 is a large sum, no doubt, but it is a sum which will not go very far in relieving distress all over the country.

We would ask Mr. Balfour and those responsible for the distribution of the Fund how much of the money has been spent in relieving cases of civil distress.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association is, we believe, supposed to add something like 1s. 6d. a week to the sums of money allotted by the husband at the front, and the separation allowance made by the War Office. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association has been making advances of further sums to the families owing to delay in the payment of the War Office allowances and the soldiers' wages. We would ask whether the money which is advanced out of the Prince of Wales' Fund for this purpose will be repaid by the War Office.

As far as we are able to ascertain the Local Representative Committees appointed under the mayors to relieve distress, in London at any rate, have as yet received no grants of money for use in civil cases. The committees are supposed to be waiting for a Cabinet scheme on which to act. As yet nothing has appeared except a White Paper in which, though many recommendations are addressed to Borough Councils, Boards of Guardians, Distress Committees and School Care Committees, no definite instructions are given to the new Local Representative Committees.

Mr. McKenna said in the House of Commons on Monday:—"I do not think it advisable to lay down rigidly at this stage a set of regulations or conditions for the Local Committees." Does this mean that the committees are to prepare their own schemes, and then to demand money to finance them, or that they are to do nothing at all?

We would urge Local Committees emphatically to adopt the former course!

An ominous sentence in the White Paper states: "in all probability the demands upon the funds available will be such as to make it impossible to do more than provide relief upon the minimum scale." What is this "minimum scale?" Efforts should, as far as possible, be to save our people from having to accept relief by giving them productive work, for a paid wage, to do; with prices rising as they are doing the old inadequate scales of relief of past days become ever more wickedly and impossibly small. The old inadequate scales of pay on which women have been compelled to subsist in the past have also become absolutely impossible now, and we would urgently call this fact to the attention of the promoters of work for women under the Queen Mary Fund, and all others who have the fixing of the rates of women's pay.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

CASES I HAVE VISITED.

BY MRS. DRAKE.

Mrs. B.—, has three children, 16 years, boy deaf and dumb, 13 years girl diseased hip, 12 years girl deaf and dumb. Husband been abroad for years. Last heard of in March so receiving nothing. Went to Parish once before and was told to go in the house. Had a brother's help but he had to join the army. Can get nothing from him yet as have not got his Insurance card. He has sent the card on, but there is a delay in the post. Willing to do any kind of work but cannot get it The eldest boy has learnt bootmaking, but as a consequence of the war there is a delay in finding him a post. They were literally hungry and had to go to bed when it was dark as could not pay for light. We told them it was not a milk case, but as there was a pint of milk left in the office we let them have it. I told them to demand immediate relief from the Parish, but it was refused.

Maud Weir is a widow, 30 Carmen Street. A daughter of 19 works at Singers', earns 11s. per week, out of that Insurance, fares and is forced by her employer to pay 4d. a week to the Prince of Wales' fund. Her mother thinks it very hard that they should make a widow pay through her daughter in this way as she says 4d. would buy her a day's food. She has the care of two children aged 3½ years and 12 months and gets the small amount that is paid her very irregularly. The mother of one child being ill with varicose veins, so she is getting nothing at present. She does needlework herself and there is hardly any coming in now. She pays 9s. 6d. rent and has a room she would like to let, but cannot get a lodger.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Anon 1/6, Mrs. Julia Wood £2, Miss Glicksten £1, Two Working Sisters 2/-, Mrs. Ivory 5/-, Mrs. Mansell Moullin £1/1/-, Mrs. M. L. Daniell £10, Sent to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst instead of to Queen Mary £1/1/-, Miss M. Balchin 2/1, Anon 2/6, Mrs. Ayrton Gould £2/2/-, Miss Ellen M. Lloyd £1, A Belgian family £5, "Snowstorm" 5/7.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS: Mrs. Lancaster 10/-, Mrs. Grant £1, per Miss Rawlins, Monteith School £1/10/-, Miss L. C. Lowe 15/-, Miss Philippa Douglas 5/-, Mr. J. Jeol 5/-, Mrs. M. E. Edwards 10/-, W. G. T. 2/6, An Observer 5/-, Velindra £1, Miss Pilley 10/-, Mrs. A. Daubin 5/-, Mr. & Mrs. Renny £5, E. J. Howell 1/-, Mrs. Yeoman 10/-, Mrs. Marie A. Renthe 4/-, Miss E. Morgan 2/6, Miss Canning 3/-, Mrs. Hulme, 2/6, Cuckoo 2/-, Miss Johnson 5/-, Miss Mack £3, Mr. Wright 10/-, Miss Denny £3, International Suffrage Shop collected 6/-, Mrs. Reinold 2/6, Miss M. Nicholson £1, Mrs. Hamilton 10/-, Mrs. J. A. Hinton £2, Mrs. Monck Mason £2, Mrs. Richmond 5/-, Miss A. L. Durham 5/-, Miss Ramsey 10/-, Two Women Workers 4/-, Anon 1/-, Mrs. A. Newman 3/-

APPLES AND PEARS—Mr. Ernest Chance.
FRENCH BEANS—Mrs. Alan Wright.
BARLEY—Miss Douglas, Mrs. Sykes.
VEGETABLES—Miss Fidden. Two Allotment holders—W. S. and J. R.
BLACKBERRY JAM (for sale)—Mrs. Laski.
POTATOES—Mr. Morris.

"GOVERNMENT" WORK!

J. H—, Bulford Camp,
Salisbury Plains.

Lizzie—Dear Wife,

I hope you and the children are all right and well. I know it must be a hard struggle for you to keep the place a-going on your little bit what you earn. I was very sorry I could not send you any money on Saturday as I could not get much, as they only pay out once a fortnight and I could only sub a few shillings. We did not earn much on account of very bad weather, rained every day and night since I have been down here. We are not getting much money, so I cannot send you up a lot, but I will do my best for you on Thursday when we draw our money. When it rains we have to lose time; we are working out on the fields and sleeping under tents on boards, and the water comes up to them, and we are sleeping in our clothes; and the food is so dear down here; bread 4d. a loaf, half oz. cheese for 1d., 2d. for a bit of brawn. It is shocking down here! I will come home as soon as I can get enough money to ride home. We are about ten miles from anywhere; we have to walk three miles for each meal. We get up at 4.30 in the morning and wash ourselves as best we can, and go three miles for a cup of coffee or tea and back to the job by six o'clock; then it starts to rain and we have to leave off and stand about under sheds with no sides to them and the wind blowing all round you. When it is fine it is so windy you can hardly keep your feet, it blows you over nearly. It is a hard life. I am always thinking of you and the children. I do miss my bed; can't go anywhere; as soon as we are done, three miles for tea and back to our tents. It's pitch dark unless we buy candles, then the wind blows them out. Shall be glad when I get home to see you, dear Liz. Remember me to Carrie and kiss the children for me, and tell Carrie to write to me as soon as she can and let me know how you are getting on at home. About paying the rent and other things, tell Mr. C—— the landlord I have not forgot him. I will send him some up soon and pay him up as soon as I can; he is very good to let me owe it. But never mind Liz, I have not forgot you, be good and look after the children for me. XXXXXX.

Dear Liz, tell Carrie when she writes to me to address the letter thus:—Mr. ——, in the care of Sir John Jackson's job, Bulford Camp, Bulford, near Salisbury, or the same what's on the post-card I sent you last week.

Letter No. 2.

Dear Lizzie,

There are hundreds of men keep coming and going from here. One of the tents is holding 500 men sleeping on canvas and one blanket they sent us to cover up our feet. On Saturday you know it rained all day and when the men got their sub they went up to the marquee and came back drunk and wet through to the skin with rain. It is pouring in torrents while I am writing this letter to you. When they go to rest they want to fight each other. One man was drunk; he got up and wanted to fight the 500 men, so they pushed him over to sleep but he would not be quiet so they threw two pails of piddle over him what the men piddled in the pails. It was an uproar, fighting and hollering all night, no sleep that night, and bread and jam for breakfast to make you strong, and tea with no milk in it. Goodbye for the present; please write if you have a letter from T—— F—— of Poplar about work, or anybody else who sends for me. XXXXXX.

J. H——,
Your husband.

Many distinguished people are calling upon the women of England to come to their Country's aid by caring for distress. Experience of the delays and party wranglings of the present system, makes us wish that Borough Councillors and others might go to the front and leave the women unfettered to what is supposed to be their special work.

When you are in distress, do not take the food out of your children's mouths to pay the landlord.
Do not allow your neighbours to be driven out.

A VISIT TO MR. RUNCIMAN.

By Mrs. Walker of Poplar.

Dear Comrades,

A great many women have asked me to write in the Dreadnought how I got on at the Board of Trade. We arrived at the Board of Trade sharp at four o'clock with our Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was to introduce us. The first thing that struck me most was the magnificent building. Two flunkeys met us and asked us what was our business. We told them we had an appointment with the President of the Board of Trade. That he was to receive a deputation of working women at four o'clock. They said "step this way," in a machine like fashion. Through a very long beautiful hall we stepped, and Miss Sylvia signed for us in the Visitors book. Whilst this was going on the flunkeys were eyeing us up and down. Then suddenly we were admitted into a large room, very beautifully furnished, not unlike our Council Chamber, with doors all around. The beautiful tables and chairs and magnificent carpet all spoke of grandeur and wealth, and we compared it with our own miserable and wretched surroundings, and were at the same time conscious of the fact that we voteless women had to help in the upkeeping of all this unnecessary grandeur, just as we had had to help to pay the salary of the President of the Board of Trade.

In a very few minutes the door opened and in walked Mr. Runciman, Mr. Barnes and several other men who, I gather, were officials of the Department, and judging by their appearance were receiving a *jolly good screw*. Just let us look at these men before I tell you what actually took place.

These men sat down before us, and judging by the look on their faces, the centre of attraction amongst the little group was our Sylvia, who introduced the deputation. Was it a look of scorn? No, it was a look of respect and admiration, which proves for ourselves that men, even such as these, dislike women who cringe, but admire a woman who can stand up for herself and who can hold her own, as our Sylvia has done in the past.

Then I thought they eyed us working women up and down. No doubt they missed the fine cut and beautiful garments which they have been used to see their own women arrayed in, but, yet in spite of it all, there we were—a body of working women, with nothing but a School-board education to boast of, face to face with a real live Cabinet Minister, to talk to him about the question of food supplies, and to let him know that we knew there were 16 ounces in the pound. We also thought that on some of the faces of the officials we could read these words—"What are these working women going to teach us?"

The facts we gave them, as you will see by Dreadnought No. 25, were from good sound practical experience. I daresay a great many women think that at that particular time we would be sure to be nervous. No, not in the least—we meant business and we were cool and collected.

We addressed these men in the same way and in the same simple language as we would address our own men in East London, we entirely forgot in a few seconds that Mr. Runciman was a man holding Cabinet rank. We went there to look upon him as our paid servant—to give him our orders and to see that he carried them out.

We know that some think these men are unapproachable, but it is not so with Suffragettes! Now, to come to the point. What do I think of Mr. Runciman—a very fair man, a man who listened to what we had to say, and one who did not lose his temper or hurry us in any way.

I could see the look of astonishment come over his face while listening to the women giving their individual experiences of the present difficulties.

Mrs. Drake, that brave little woman of Canning Town, made a bold charge. She had ready for him in black and white her own weekly budget. Also a budget belonging to a widow with eleven children, who receives eleven shillings a week from the Poor Law and four shilling grocery ticket. To refer to these two budgets you must read the Dreadnought dated September 5th.

Mrs. Drake went on to demand that the Government nationalise the land, but the President could not see eye to eye with her.

Mrs. Parsons made a very good speech. She played on the prices of sugar and margarine, and the President kept on asking whether they were the prices of the Maypole Company. We have since asked ourselves the question whether he has got shares in the said company. Very likely, and if so, no wonder he cannot see eye to eye with Mrs. Drake.

Mrs. Farrell explained that it was impossible to make both ends meet with the excessive prices—consequence was she was falling behind in her rent.

Mrs. Moore could not see any reason why the Government could not take over the food supplies, they had taken over the railways and commandeered the horses, and the food of the people was just as important.

Then it was my turn. I told him the price of meat, in the second week of the war, was exactly double the usual price. My usual joint cost 4½d. per lb. before the war, but today it was 8½d. My joint of 4 lbs. costing me on Saturday night exactly 1s. 4d. more. Then the price of eggs, the cheapest was 10 for a shilling, and if one of these so-called eggs were put before him for breakfast he would have to hold his nose while he called his footman to take it away. He asked, "have the hens gone on strike?" Bacon, we explained, had become a luxury to be used only by people of his class.

After hearing what we had to say, he actually had the audacity to say: "But the food has not yet reached panic prices."

"Not with your salary Mr. Runciman, but with 25s. a week and five children to bring up it is panic prices," I told him. He said, looking angry, "it is not a question of salary." I said: "it *is* a question of salary, and we are here to protest against the prices, *because our wages* will not run to them, and we have to go without. You, the Government, have brought this war on us. We did not want war, and you must stand by us and see us through. Our children must not starve!" He looked very uncomfortable, then he referred to the meat, and said he would stop the mad prices, and would be glad in future of any information, and if he came across butchers who were robbing the people, for that was what they were doing, he would try to stop it. We are determined to keep in touch with him and the meat prices!

He went on to talk about scarcity of flour and sugar, and we frightened him by saying: "There is no such thing as scarcity, there are tons and tons of sugar and flour in the Docks, enough to last for twelve months. *we know* they are there, *because our men work amongst them and know just where they are!*" He looked alarmed and we went on to say that if the prices do not come down we shall help ourselves, we shall refuse to stand by and see our children starve.

Then we went on to tell him that the unemployment is very great owing to the war, and to ask him what men and women are to do if they have no work, which means no money, when landlords are worrying and threatening women for their rent. We asked whether the Government will allow poor people's homes to be sold up. We said that they had passed a moratorium for the benefit of their class, why could they not give us a guarantee that the Government would not allow the landlord to broker us! Mr. Runciman said he had no power, it was not his department, and advised us to go to Mr. McKenna. Then we said: "What about the Prince of Wales' fund, when are they going to open works? Are you trying to starve the men into enlisting? That is a cowardly weapon, you always use against our class, the weapon of starvation!"

We were able to give Mr. Runciman much practical information as regards retail prices, there was not an article but what we had the prices at our finger tips. "If we had the vote," we said, "what invaluable help our services would be to you, because the buying of food is a woman's question. The sooner we get the vote the better it will be for the Government and us."

Now it is for the women of East London to fight harder than ever for the vote. The Government will not take over the food supplies and, as you will see, we have no power to make them, for they take no notice of voteless women. If all women in this country had the power of the vote, we could use that power and force them, even at this critical time.

Let us take courage. Fight on, victory is ours, and stick closer and closer together!

NEXT WEEK.

Full Report of E.L.F.S. DEPUTATION to Mr. JOHN BURNS, Chairman of the Committee for London.

GOOD NEWS.

Mr. Asquith, in the House of Commons, on Thursday, made a statement regarding the provision made for the dependents of our soldiers and sailors on active service.

The new scale is as follows:

12s. 6d.	for wife	without a child.		
15s.	„	„	with one child.	
17s. 6d.	„	„	„	two children.
20s.	„	„	„	three „
22s.	„	„	„	four „

Formerly the allowance was:

11s. 1d.	for wife	without a child.		
12s. 10d.	„	„	with one child.	
14s. 7d.	„	„	„	two children.
16s. 4d.	„	„	„	three „
17s. 6d.	„	„	„	four „

The special additional allowance for London of 3s. 6d. will remain unaltered.

They also propose to pay a separation allowance in the case of relatives, mothers and sisters.

In all cases the allowance will be paid weekly through the Post Office.

SEE THAT YOU GET THIS!

CHEAP AND NOURISHING FOODS.

Rice.—A cup-full of uncooked rice will make a meal for from 3 to 5 people, according to the size of the cup. It should be put into boiling water and boiled rapidly for about 20 minutes, until the grains are swollen and soft.

It can be eaten with sugar and lemon, with jam, or with syrup. The following dishes can also be made with it:—

Kedgeree.

¼ lb. or rather more of rice	cost	½d. to 1d.
A piece of dried haddock	„	1½d. to 2d.
Butter	„	½d. to ½d.
Pepper and salt		—

Cook a piece of dried haddock (this can be steamed by placing it between two plates over the saucepan of boiling rice, thus saving fuel), chop small, removing the bones. Mix with the boiled rice, after straining off the water, add pepper and salt and a small piece of butter, and shake the mixture over the fire for a minute or so to make quite hot before serving. The addition of a hard boiled egg, chopped finely, improves the flavour and adds nourishment, but is not necessary.

Savory Rice.

¼ lb. or more of rice	cost	½d. to 1d.
An Onion	„	½d.
Cheese, 3 or 4 ozs.	„	1½d. to 2d.
Pepper and Salt		

Chop the onion small and fry in a little dripping or other fat. When it is just browning add the boiled rice and mix well together in the pan, frying until the whole turns a light brown (this needs fairly frequent stirring or it will stick). Two or three minutes before removing from the fire add pepper and salt and a small cup-full of grated cheese if liked, stirring the whole until the cheese is melted.

A. E. WAKEFIELD, 259 Old Ford Road, Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser (pro tem.)—Mrs. Bouvier.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Interested audiences listened to our speakers at the usual street corner meetings during the week. Good collection and sale of the *Dreadnought* in Victoria Park on Sunday. At the Women's Hall, Mrs. Bouvier, in the chair, presented Mrs. Walker on behalf of the E.L.F.S. with a locket designed by Miss S. Pankhurst, as a token of their admiration for their comrade who underwent imprisonment for the emancipation of womanhood.

Excellent trade with *Dreadnought* at meetings in the West End, and stall. Poster parade had to be abandoned last Saturday owing to heavy rain. An urgent appeal to members and friends, men and women, from the different districts in the East End, to take part in the Poster parade, to-morrow Saturday, Sept. 19th, at 3 p.m. (starting from 321 Roman Road) in order to advertise our brave little paper, which it is our duty to keep going in these troublous times of war and distress.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Sep. 11 :—

Central 273. Bow and Bromley 350.

Mrs. Payne 65
Mrs. Watkins 120

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Gatwood, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Weaver 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100; Nurse Smith, 50.

POPLAR.

Office—319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser (pro. tem)—Mrs. Drake.

On Tuesday morning Mrs. Churcher, a member, kindly helped with visiting and distributing. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Schlette had a good meeting at the Dock Gates—eleven papers sold. Our paper-sellers did splendid work at the Opera House on Tuesday, selling 150 papers. On Wednesday, Miss S. Pankhurst came to our members' meeting and told us of the progress of our splendid schemes of relief. She also suggested that our indoor meeting should be changed so that we may see more of her. Meetings as usual until new day is announced. Mrs. Bouvier spoke at Thursday afternoon meeting and some of the women who are receiving milk stayed to the meeting and enjoyed it very much. On Friday, another good meeting at Piggott Street, speakers Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Drake.

324 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sep. 11

Miss W. Long 112, Miss Watts 57, Mrs. Walker 50. Mrs. Hicks & Mrs. Schlette sold 67 in office, Miss Hetty Watts received 1s. for a *Dreadnought* at the Opera House on Tuesday, Miss P. Lagsding & Miss E. Barker distributed 500 free copies in Poplar, Mrs. Churcher 200. Mrs. Schlette & Mrs. Hicks have done splendid work with the distribution of the milk. It has been so much appreciated that in every case they have been pleased to buy the *Dreadnought* and some have wanted it for their friends.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Members are reminded that both indoor and outdoor meetings are in full swing. Miss Greenleaf and Miss Penn met speakers and Mrs. Millo took charge of papers during Secretary's absence, for which they are heartily thanked. More members are needed to become speakers, as after hearing Mrs. Walker's enthusiastic speech on Sunday, all seemed encouraged to "go on and do more for the cause." Please all keep the last Saturday in September free and all go to the Dinner Party, at 8 o'clock, at the Women's Hall, Bow, E.—tickets 3d. each, to be had at Thursday's meeting. Also people wanted to give in their names for singing, reciting, or playing at that party.

155 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sep. 10

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss Young,
100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Open-air meetings held every Monday evening at Lesbia Road. Very good afternoon meeting at 30 Churchill Road on Tuesday. Mrs. Bouvier gave an interesting speech. Twelve papers were sold. Will members kindly make this meeting known to their friends.

LIMEHOUSE.

Open-air meetings held Tuesday evenings, Coutts Road, Burdett Road. Afternoon meetings have again started in the Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Road on Thursdays at 3 o'clock. Thanks to Mrs Walsh for her speech which greatly interested the women.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

Meetings as usual to urge the Government to take over food supplies and give Votes to Women. The last tickets for benefit concert in aid of Comrade Wise, of R.S.P.U. and Gas Workers' Union, may be had from any member of the R.S.P.U. We are holding a Social in the Women's Hall on Saturday, September 19th. Those who are in distress through the war are asked to give full particulars to J. W. Bonarius, at the above address, any evening; he will then forward same to Labour Members on the Central Committee formed to relieve distress in this district.

24 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sept. 11.

OUR DUTY.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes has offered what service it can give to the mayors in the districts where its work lies. To lend aid to the relief committees is not a thing for which anyone need wish to take special credit; it is the ordinary instinct of humanity to do what one can at such a time of exceptional crisis and distress. The members of the Federation are mostly poor and busy women; they cannot give so much in money as Duchesses and millionairesses, but they know by experience the needs of working women. The Federation feels that its principal duty is to bring pressure to bear on the Government, which has much greater power to attend to such matters than any number of private individuals, to secure justice for the women, and especially the working women of the country.

If women had the vote the prospect of securing justice in all such matters would be brighter, but in the meantime the Federation is determined to do what it can to keep the working women's point of view to the fore.

OUR DEMANDS.

1. That during the war the food supply shall be controlled by the Government in the interests of all the people, in order that all may feed or starve together, without regard to wealth or social position. To make sure that the food supply is properly controlled, we demand that working women shall be called into consultation in fixing the prices to be charged for food, and the way in which the food shall be distributed.

2. That working women shall be placed on all committees for fixing food prices, and that women inspectors of food prices be appointed.

3. That, as far as possible, work for wages shall be provided, instead of doles of food or money; and that working women shall sit on all women's employment and relief committees; also that a minimum wage of £1 a week, or 5d. an hour be granted to all women employed on relief work, or by Government contractors. Women to receive equal pay with men when doing the same work.

4. That the Moratorium be extended to rent and debts under £5, as well as to debts over £5, as it is of vital importance that homes shall be kept together, and the poor, who have contracted debts under £5, which are large in proportion to their income, need this relief as much or more than the rich.

5. That the scale for relief where work cannot be given, be 10s. for an adult and 5s. for a child.

6. That the soldiers' and sailors' families shall receive weekly payments by post from the War Office of £1 a week for a wife with less than three children, and for a wife with more than three children 10s. a week for the mother and 5s. for each child. Where a woman is not legally married to a man who has supported her and their children, the allowance to be the same as though they had been legally married. For the parents of a soldier who has been supporting his parents and brothers and sisters, a minimum of £1, and 10s. for a parent and 5s. for a brother or sister.

7. That the Parliamentary franchise be immediately granted to women, in order that they may help in minimising, as far as possible, the horrors of war, and in securing better conditions for all.

WE ALSO URGE.

That all vacant pieces of waste ground in crowded districts be purchased, and that these be used both for building cottages with gardens and for laying out playgrounds for the children living in existing cottages without gardens and situated far from a park.

That housing and drainage improvements be carried out wherever there is need. That the dust pails shall be emptied every day, instead of twice a week, as at present, and that larger pails with lids shall be provided, in order both to provide employment and to improve the sanitary conditions.

That the Local Representative Committees open as many factories as may be necessary to provide work for unemployed garment and shoe and hat makers, and that home work for women be given out in conjunction with these factories. Clothing made to be afterwards given free of charge in necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committees open factories for food preserving, the Government to be asked to carry food free of charge on the railways for use in these factories. Freight charges for food in ordinary use to be greatly reduced. The Food preserved in the Local Representative Committee's Factories to be used under the direction of the Committees and chiefly for necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committee establish as many restaurants as may be necessary, where food may be sold cheaply for consumption on or off the premises and free tickets for which may be given by the Ward Sub-Committee in necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committee approach the Local Government Board, the Cabinet Committee, and the Prince of Wales' Fund for any financial or other assistance that may be necessary.

That the scheme set forth in the Memorandum issued by the Local Government Board on mother and child welfare, including free clinics, systematic medical advice at home and hospital treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and infants under school age, be adopted and that to it shall be added the provision of free milk for babies in every case in which it can be shown that the family is not able to provide for the baby as much milk as a child of its age ought to have, the milk to be provided, either on the recommendation of the nurse or doctor, or in response to an application by the father, mother or guardian.

Also that expectant mothers and their children under school age shall be given adequate nourishment, either by the provision of meals at a food centre, or by food tickets, or by payment in cash on the advice of a doctor or their own application, when it can be shown that the mothers are unable themselves to provide what is necessary. The meals should be connected with doctoring in order that the right kind of nourishment may be supplied.

That free meals for the school children shall be given on Saturday, Sunday and other holidays, and that children whose parents are receiving Poor Law Relief shall not be disqualified on that account, that free meals be given, where necessary, to children under school age.

That the Local Representative Committee appoint a number of women inspectors to investigate the local food prices and report with a view to prosecution where extortion is proved.

That hospitals in the locality remit fees in necessitous cases during the war, and in all cases of young children.

RELIEF OF STARVATION —NOW.

The *Times*, of Friday, September 4th, in its permanent feature "How to be Useful in War Time," dealt with the doubts and difficulties of various correspondents. It ended on the optimistic note "those who are generously giving their money and time need not fear that their efforts will be thrown away."

We wish that we could share the *Times*' optimism, but it is far easier to be optimistic in a comfortably furnished office than in the East End of London. The present writer recently visited the west end offices of a number of philanthropic and social organisations with a view to learning what was being done to alleviate the distress caused by the present war. There is no doubt that many admirable schemes have been conceived which we hope to see carried out later on, but the impression seems to be prevalent that there is very little abnormal distress at the present moment, and that the wisest plan is to prepare for the time when distress is more widespread and more acute.

We do not wish for a moment to decry any sensible proposals for future relief, but we cannot help fearing that by the time "Invalid Kitchens" for expectant mothers and convalescents are established "in every Borough in London," their usefulness will be crippled by the fact that the penny which is charged at the Kitchens already established will be a penny more than the mothers can afford to pay. And in any case what are nursing mothers to do NOW?"

It appears to us an extraordinary point of view that there is no need to alleviate the distress of Mrs. A. because the other people in Mrs. A.'s street are still managing to avoid actual starvation. To dub people in need "isolated cases" does not find work for the mother nor feed the children. Undoubtedly distress will be both more acute and more widespread later on, but the policy of making no move until that time arrives is likely both to hasten and to prolong it. It is not too early, it appears, to appeal for funds, but it is too early to apply them.

The bulk of the responsibility for this delay lies with the Local Representative Committees which have been formed to administer the Prince of Wales' Fund. Urgent appeals have been made through the Press to philanthropic societies and private individuals to co-ordinate with the National scheme of relief, and to discourage private spasmodic enterprise. It is sound advice—or would be if the National schemes were forthcoming. But where are they? Such schemes, it is true, should be well thought out, and the organisation for the administration of relief cannot be formed at a moment's notice. But prompt dealing with urgent cases in the present may save much suffering later, and this work ought to be carried on while other plans are maturing.

Card catalogues may be indispensible, but so, with the death roll we are likely to have before the war is over, are the lives of the babies. The various National Health Societies are doing excellent work in collecting and training voluntary workers who will be able to man fresh maternity centres as they are opened, and they also hope to act as a clearing house for the collection and distribution of babies clothes. But babies are being born every day, and even in the summer they require clothes, and food, and care. Who is to look after them NOW?

The general public does not realise the urgency of the present need. Its misgivings are reassured by the growing total of the Prince of Wales' Fund. No paper gives the total amount *spent*, and the knowledge that over two million pounds has been collected gives singularly little comfort and help to the mother who cannot see where her children's next meal is coming from.

The only Society which the writer visited where present distress was being dealt with (except, of course, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes) was the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. It has turned its hall into a workroom where it employs 15 to 20 girls, mostly skilled dressmakers, all of whom are registered at the Westminster Labour Exchange, with the understanding that their present employment shall not interfere with the offer of ordinary work. They undertake blouse and dressmaking and the more skilled forms of needlework. If funds were forthcoming another workroom on the same lines could immediately be opened, but although an application for a grant from the National Fund has been made, it is needless to say that it has not yet been obtained. But why the delay? Even the most red-tape ridden official might surely be satisfied with such an arrangement.

In the face of these facts we would urge all those who are anxious to minimise distress to see that what they give, whether it be food, or work or money, is used at once. Later the Government and the various philanthropic societies between them may deal with the bulk of the distress. The most urgent need is NOW. Various official persons informed the present writer with pride that such food as they were given and could not immediately use was being carefully stored. Yet there are people starving in our streets to-day who, if they are not fed NOW may have passed beyond the need of food before those stores are distributed.

We would urge "those who are generously giving their money and time" not to believe that the need is not yet pressing. There is no occasion to wait for food riots. Let them come to Bow and see for themselves.

E. D. Sharp.

Give this Paper to a Friend.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.